

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented) A hybrid speech encoder, comprising:

- (a) a linear prediction, pitch and, voicing analyzer;
- (b) a parametric encoder coupled to said analyzer; and
- (c) a waveform encoder coupled to said analyzer;
- (d) wherein said analyzer classifies frames with voice activity as one of strongly-voiced, weakly-voiced, or unvoiced and said parametric encoder encodes strongly-voiced frames and said waveform encoder encodes both weakly-voiced and unvoiced frames, and wherein said waveform encoder includes both a zero-phase equalization filter plus a pitch-prediction filter for weakly-voiced frames and said parametric encoder omits a zero-phase equalization filter.

Claim 2 (original) The encoder of claim 1, wherein:

- (a) said zero-phase equalization filter has coefficients determined by said analyzer.

Claim 3 (previously presented) A hybrid speech decoder, comprising:

- (a) a linear prediction synthesizer;
- (b) a parametric ~~encoder~~ decoder coupled to said ~~analyzer~~ synthesizer; and
- (c) a waveform decoder coupled to said synthesizer;
- (d) wherein said waveform decoder decodes zero-phase equalized plus pitch-predicted weakly-voiced frames and also decodes unvoiced frames and said parametric decoder decodes non-zero-phase-equalized strongly-voiced frames.

Claim 4 (cancelled)